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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Service

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

FEDERAL AND FEDERAL-STATE  
EQUAL-TO-TYPE RICE INSPECTION SERVICE  
IN THE SOUTH

By W. D. Smith, Federal Supervisor of Rice Inspection

A large volume of milled rice is bought and sold annually on the basis of type samples. Transactions of this kind are made when buyers desire to visualize the kind, quality, and physical appearance of rice offered for sale rather than to make purchases on the basis of grades.

When transactions are made on the basis of type samples, the seller usually initiates the action leading to a sale by sending a type sample to a prospective buyer, or to a broker, and offering to sell at a certain price a quantity of rice of a quality equal to or better than the type sample. If the prospective buyer accepts the offer, or if the broker confirms a sale, the seller, in order to fulfill the contract, must ship rice of a quality equal to or better than the quality of the type sample that he sent to the buyer or to the broker.

If a lot of rice is shipped on an equal-to-type contract without inspection, there is always the possibility that a dispute may arise as to whether the quality of the rice shipped is equal to or better than the quality of the type sample on which the transaction was based. Consequently, many shippers are now obtaining equal-to-type inspection certificates for shipments when equal-to-type contracts are being fulfilled.

The Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture govern the official inspection of rice by Federal and Federal-State inspectors based on type samples. Equal-to-type inspections are based on the quality factors specified in the official standards for milled, brown, and rough rice, respectively. Equal-to-type rice inspection certificates issued by Federal inspectors or by State inspectors licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture are used by buyers and sellers to determine whether the quality of rice shipped on contract is equal to or better than a type sample on which the transaction is based.

Federal and Federal-State inspectors have also been authorized to render the additional service of preparing and sealing samples that are sent by sellers to buyers or to brokers before a sale is made and before the type sample is filed in a Federal or Federal-State inspection office. A seller may hand or transmit to the inspector a large sample of rice with a request that the sample be thoroughly mixed and carefully split into a given number of representative portions. The inspector will comply with this request, and will then officially seal as many of the portions as may be desired, and will keep one portion for future reference. The sealed portions may be sent to the prospective buyers or brokers by the seller. At the time that the inspector splits and seals the portions of a sample, he may also advise the seller in writing that he has done this and the seller may, if he desires, send the letter written by the inspector to a buyer or a broker. In this manner the buyer or the broker is assured that he has received a sample of rice having the same quality as the sample retained by the seller and also like the sample retained by the inspector. If a sale is made on this basis the portion of the sample that is retained by the inspector can be set up with the inspector, as a type sample against which inspections are to be made, and when this is done both the buyer and the seller will then know definitely the quality of the rice that is to be delivered.

This plan may be reversed if a buyer desires to initiate it. The buyer may furnish the inspector a large sample and request him to mix and split it, seal portions of it, and then file one portion of it in the inspection office as a properly identified "type" (example, "John Doe type No. 1"). The remaining sealed and identified portions of the original sample are then returned to the buyer who furnished the original sample. The buyer may then send the sealed portions to prospective sellers, advise the sellers that a portion of the sample has been deposited with the inspector as a type and further advise the sellers that in case a sale is made on the basis of the type sample a Federal or a Federal-State equal-to-type inspection certificate must be furnished by the seller with each shipment made against the type.

Another way in which type samples may be deposited with an inspector is for a seller to ask a buyer to send to a Federal or a Federal-State inspector a sample of rice of the quality he desires to buy. The buyer should send the inspector a sample of approximately 3 pounds of rice. Upon receiving the sample, the inspector will split the sample and retain about 2 pounds of it, and will seal a 1-pound portion of the sample and transmit it to the seller. The buyer who sends the sample to the inspector must request the inspector to render this service and must name the seller to whom the sealed portion is to be sent. In this manner the buyer and the seller each know that the quality of the type sample retained by the inspector and the quality of the sample received by the seller are alike. If a sale is made on this basis the portion of the sample retained by the inspector

becomes the type against which inspections are made of the rice that is shipped on the contract.

Inasmuch as many type samples are prepared from rice that has been on hand in an office or a sample room for some time, the samples do not, as a rule, have as high a moisture content as that of the rice in a shipment against the type. To provide for this possible difference in moisture content between the type sample and a shipment, the Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture governing the inspection and certification of rice require that when a type sample is deposited with an inspector, the depositor shall specify and file in writing with the inspector a statement of the maximum moisture content of any rice which he proposes to have inspected against such type.

The regulations further provide that when the statement of moisture content filed by the depositor with the type specifies a maximum moisture content of 15 percent or less and when the lot or sample inspected against the type contains no more moisture than the maximum percentage so specified, no mention of moisture content need be made on the inspection certificate. When the statement of moisture content filed by the depositor with the type specifies a maximum moisture content in excess of 15 percent and when the lot or sample inspected against the type contains no more moisture than the maximum percentage so specified, the certificate shall clearly state the maximum percentage of moisture specified by the depositor and the actual moisture content of the lot or sample covered by the certificate. Thus, buyers and sellers are protected as to moisture content of deliveries on equal-to-type contracts. When a Federal or a Federal-State equal-to-type inspection certificate is issued without mention being made on it of the moisture content of the rice inspected, the moisture content of the rice inspected will not be more than 15 percent. In many cases the moisture content of the rice inspected is shown on the certificate, whether or not it is required that it be shown. If the moisture content of the rice exceeds the maximum moisture content specified in the statement that is filed with the type, the rice will be certified in the inspection certificate as "Not equal to type."

At times an equal-to-type inspection certificate is required and may be issued for a single quality factor only. The demand for such a certificate arises when a seller or a buyer desires to know whether a sample or a "lot" of rice is equal to or better than a type sample with respect to only one quality factor. The single factor may be broken kernels, moisture content, weed seeds, or any other quality factor specified in the United States standards. Inspection certificates of this kind show clearly either that the rice inspected is equal to or better than the type sample for the one factor only, or that it is not equal to type as to the factor specified.

Further information regarding Federal and Federal-State equal-to-type inspection service for rice in the South may be obtained by addressing inquiries to:

Agricultural Marketing Service  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Harry L. Wilson  
Commissioner of Agriculture and Immigration  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Federal Supervisor of Rice Inspection  
333 St. Charles Street, Room 1401  
New Orleans, Louisiana

## FEDERAL RICE INSPECTION CERTIFICATE A 2598



This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

ORIGINALLOT INSPECTIONV O I D  
Specimen

New Orleans, Louisiana, November 15, 1941

(Place and date)

This certificate is admissible in all courts of the United States as *prima facie* evidence of the truth of the statements herein contained.

I certify that in compliance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture governing the inspection and certification of rice, an inspection of the rice described herein was performed by me with the results stated below.

Kind

Blue Rose Milled Rice - Quality equal to or better than  
John Doe & Co. Type 42.

Quantity 1140 100-pound pockets Sampled at Canal Street Wharf, New Orleans, La.

Marked A B C over 1140 over X Y Z

Steamship Opelousas Point of discharge Liverpool, England.

Car initials - - - - Number - - - - Seals - - - -

Shipper John Doe &amp; Co., New Orleans, Louisiana.

Consignee Richard Roe &amp; Co., London, England.

Remarks:

Inspector.

Figure 1.-Federal equal-to-type inspection certificate issued to show that the quality of a "lot" of rice inspected is equal to or better than the quality of a specified type sample.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND  
LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COOPERATING

E- 6502



ORIGINAL

## LOT INSPECTION

This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture.

V O I D  
Specimen

Crowley, Louisiana, November 15, 1941

(Place and date)

This certificate is admissible in all courts of the United States as *prima facie* evidence of the truth of the statements herein contained.

I certify that in compliance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture governing the inspection and certification of rice, an inspection of the rice described herein was performed by me with the results stated below.

Kind Blue Rose Milled Rice - Quality equal to or better than  
John Doe & Co. Type 63.

Quantity 440 100-pound pockets Sampled at Crowley, La., as rice was shipped.

Marked X Y Z over 63 over A B C

Steamship Marigny Point of discharge Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Car initials - - - - Number - - - Seals - - -

Shipper John Doe & Co., New Orleans, Louisiana.

Consignee Richard Roe & Co., Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Remarks Maximum moisture specified for type 15%. Moisture content of rice  
inspected 14.8%.

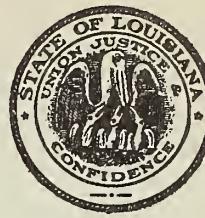
Inspector.

Figure 2.-Federal-State equal-to-type inspection certificate issued to show that the quality of a "lot" of rice inspected is equal to or better than the quality of a specified type sample, when the maximum moisture content for the type sample is specified as 15 percent.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND  
LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COOPERATING

E- 6503



ORIGINAL

## LOT INSPECTION

This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture.

V O I D  
Specimen

Lake Charles, Louisiana, November 15, 1941.

(Place and date)

This certificate is admissible in all courts of the United States as *prima facie* evidence of the truth of the statements herein contained.

I certify that in compliance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture governing the inspection and certification of rice, an inspection of the rice described herein was performed by me with the results stated below.

Kind Milled Rice - Quality equal to or better than John Doe & Co. Type 142.

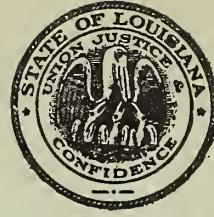
Quantity 2000 100-pound pockets Sampled at Lake Charles, La., as rice was shipped.  
 Marked J D C over Havana over 2000 over 142.  
 Steamship West Gate Point of discharge Havana, Cuba.  
 Car initials - - - Number - - - Seals - - -  
 Shipper John Doe & Co., Lake Charles, Louisiana.  
 Consignee Richard Roe & Co., Havana, Cuba.  
 Remarks Moisture content - 13.8%

Figure 3.-Federal-State equal-to-type inspection certificate issued to show that the quality of a "lot" of rice inspected is equal to or better than the quality of a tyr. sample. On this certificate the moisture content of the rice inspected is shown at the request of the shipper.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND  
LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COOPERATING

E- 6504

ORIGINAL**LOT INSPECTION**

This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture.

**V O I D**  
Specimen

Crowley, Louisiana, November 15, 1941.

(Place and date)

This certificate is admissible in all courts of the United States as *prima facie* evidence of the truth of the statements herein contained.

I certify that in compliance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture governing the inspection and certification of rice, an inspection of the rice described herein was performed by me with the results stated below.

Kind Milled Rice - Quality equal to or better than John Doe & Co. Type 164  
for the factor total broken kernels only.

Quantity 500 100-pound pockets Sampled at Crowley, La., as rice was shipped.  
 Marked J D C over 500 over 164 over New York.

Steamship - - - Point of discharge - - -  
 Car initials S.P. Number 19653 Seals 4892 and 4893.

Shipper John Doe & Co., Crowley, Louisiana.  
 Consignee Richard Roe & Co., New York, N. Y.

Remarks Total broken kernels in Type 164 - 9.1%.  
Total broken kernels in rice inspected - 8.4%.

Figure 4.-Federal-State equal-to-type inspection certificate issued to show that the quality of a "lot" of rice inspected is equal to or better than the quality of a type sample for one factor only.